

ANTI-SECTARIANS TO FIGHT CHANGE

Kauffman Will Carry Battle on Religious Grants to Revision Contest

DENIES BIGOTRY ANIMUS

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

"Having disproved the right of the Legislature to make appropriations for sectarian and religious purposes, we will disprove its right to call a Constitutional Convention under the conditions it has imposed.

"The Supreme Court cannot well reverse itself. It has already, years ago, decided this question. The opposition might do well to look into this matter."

The speaker bore a striking resemblance to the late Andrew Carnegie. He was below the medium as to height, and was lacking in girth. His hair, beard and mustache were snowy white. The beard was worn fuller than Carnegie ever wore his, though.

He spoke in a low tone, almost without inflection. His facial characteristics centered in a pair of very dark eyes that looked up with animation, when he got properly started on his favorite topic.

He was one of the original organizers of the Prohibition Party back in 1860, and he has been fighting its battles ever since.

I have endeavored to describe Luther S. Kauffman.

He is the man who "put over" the job of knocking out all future sectarian appropriations by the Legislature.

How He Did It

He did it through his appeal to the Supreme Court after he had been floored by Judge Wickersham, of the Dauphin County Court.

The seeming trouble with Mr. Kauffman is that he doesn't know when he is "kicked." He has plugged away apparently all his life, oblivious of the idea that he couldn't be knocked out.

Take two concrete examples as proof. Prohibition was a joke at the close of the Civil War and for three decades after. Its advocates were regarded as "nuts"; as fanatics hopelessly wedded to their foolish ideals.

Luther S. Kauffman, of Schuylkill County, with five other so-called fanatics from Pennsylvania, made the tireless journey to Chicago in 1860 when the Prohibition Party of the United States was organized.

That was fifty years ago, and look what the Prohibition Party has done in the intervening years.

Six years ago Mr. Kauffman got the notion in his head that the appropriation of the taxpayers' money, made by the State Legislature, to sectarian or religious homes, hospitals, asylums, schools, universities, associations and other denominational enterprises was all wrong.

"I made up my mind," said Mr. Kauffman, "that it was contrary to the letter and the spirit of the State Constitution. I looked into the subject and found that I was right."

Held It Unpatriotic

"I interested a number of my friends. We organized the Anti-Sectarian Appropriation Association. It has been growing steadily ever since. We fought our battle on the broad basis that granting money to any sectarian institution was not only fundamentally wrong, but was unpatriotic.

"The Supreme Court this month, after a fight lasting more than two years, has decided that we are right, and the other fellows are wrong. That is where we stand today."

"Have you not overlooked the fact that institutions asking State aid are non-sectarian in the bestowal of their benefits? Their doors are open, without discrimination, to all sufferers, in the case of hospitals, without question as to their religious faith?" I suggested.

"We have overlooked nothing. That

is the specious plea put forth by every institution ruled by a sectarian board or dominated by religious influences, whether Catholic, Protestant or Jewish," was the quick reply.

"They are non-sectarian in the same sense as a church. The doors of every church are open, and yours are extended to welcome all men without regard to their religious faith. That's what churches are for.

"That is what hospitals, homes and asylums are for. They would not have got the taxpayers' money if they had operated on any other principle.

Religions, Nevertheless

"Just the same they are religious institutions. They are owned and operated by boards whose majority membership is controlled by the sect or denomination to which they belong just so the 'Catholic Sisters of Mercy, Protestant deaconesses and other religious orders conduct the administrative affairs of these institutions.

"If they are not operated by sects or denominations, then why all this fuss?" inquired the president of the A. S. A. A., rapping the desk with his knuckles to emphasize his query.

"If they are not owned by a religious association or controlled by a certain sect, and are operating without religious prejudice and for the sole purpose of helping humanity, then what difference is it if the State subsidizes them, just so the work goes on?" demanded Mr. Kauffman.

"Then I understand the principle of the Anti-Sectarian Appropriation Association to be that all institutions for the care of the sick, infirm, helpless, dependent or waifs of humanity should be controlled absolutely by the State and free from all denominational or religious direction or control?" I asked.

"Absolutely. The Constitution of Pennsylvania expressly prohibits appropriations to religious or sectarian institutions. It does not say that because a Catholic home or a Protestant asylum helps people of other denominations it should be aided with money of the State," was the reply.

"It is the State's function and duty to take care of the defectives and ailing, the orphans and outcasts. The first principle of the American idea is that the State and Church are separate entities.

"If any body of Protestants, Catholics or Jews desires to take care of its own people, provide them with homes and attendants, where they can enjoy religious instruction or consolation according to their belief, then let that denomination provide such a place. The State has no right whatever to contribute to the support of such an institution."

"Practically every State in the union, with five or three exceptions, has laws prohibiting State contributions to religious organizations."

Is It State Socialism?

"Is not the idea of the State assuming to care for the sick, defective or outcast among its people an adaptation of the principle of State Socialism?" I asked.

"Not any more so than the fact that the State maintains free public schools for the children, institutions for the lame, the halt, and the blind, insane asylums and penal institutions. They are free from religious domination.

What more could be demanded?

"Our association fought it. It was only by the most strenuous effort that we were enabled to retain it as at present in the Constitution.

"If a constitutional convention is held and this question is brought forward, there will be another bitter struggle to wipe it from the fundamental law of the State.

"To eliminate this protective clause, which prohibits appropriations to sectarian or religious objects, or associations, would mean practically the first step toward the union of Church and State.

"With the doors wide open, with no restriction on appropriations to religious associations, it is only a question of time until every religious body in the State will be involved in a mad scramble for the taxpayers' money.

The Anti-Sectarian Appropriation Association is opposed now and for the future to any change in the Constitution in this respect. We shall enlist every agency at our command to prevent it. We are not bigots nor fanatics; we are patriotic American citizens. We regard this movement in the light of a sacred duty."

"If a majority of the people vote in favor of a constitutional revision by a constitutional convention, is it the purpose of your association to carry the question into court?" I asked.

"Undoubtedly. We will carry it to the highest court, and let me tell you," said Mr. Kauffman significantly, "the Supreme Court already decided the question years ago."

Clergymen of all sects administer to the spiritual wants of their inmates. What more could be demanded?

"The Constitutional Convention of 1873 devoted a great deal of time to the discussion of this question, and those sections prohibiting sectarian aid were adopted by a very large majority.

Governor Beaver, and after him Governor Pennypacker, vetoed numerous appropriations for hospitals on the ground that they were sectarian.

Governor Pennypacker in 1903 in vetoing an appropriation to the Presbyterian Hospital of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, said that it was a denominational and sectarian institution within the prohibition of the Constitution.

The Legislature of 1910 made an appropriation to the Duquesne University of the Holy Ghost at Pittsburgh. It is a widely known Catholic university, where the doctrines of that church are taught exclusively. The Legislature made it a distinctly sectarian appropriation, as much so as every denomination college—Baptist, Methodist or Presbyterian—where the theological doctrines of that sect are taught," said Mr. Kauffman.

"Why does your association insist that the proposition for holding a Constitutional Convention should be defeated at the fall election?"

"Last fall, when the commission of twenty-five appointed by Governor Sprout to consider the advisability of revising the Constitution of the State was meeting, great efforts were made to eliminate the clause in the Consti-

tution prohibiting legislative appropriations to sectarian or religious institutions.

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IT WAS "company night."
BUT WHEN I got home,
I FOUND the Browns.
HAD A sick baby.
AND COULDN'T come.
SO I chortled "Oh, Joy,
WON'T SUE and I have,
SWELL EATS for two!"
BUT NO, Sue said,
"YOU DON'T suppose,
I'D WASTE all this food,
JUST ON you!"
AND SO I said,
"LET'S PHONE the Smiths."
BUT THEY had headaches.
THEN WE tried the Joneses.
AND THEY fell for it.
AND WHEN grub for four,
WAS JUST about ready,
THE PHONE bell tinkled.
AND THE Brown baby was better.
AND A minute later,
THE SMITHS changed their mind,
AND THE Missus fainted.
"OH, WELL," I said,
"THE MORE the merrier,
WHAT'S THE difference?
IF THERE isn't enough food,
I'LL FEED the males.
ON THE cigarettes that satisfy,
AND YOU women can talk,
AND BETWEEN the two,
WE'LL ALL be Satisfied."



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Willow Chair, \$8.75
Reed Lamp, any finish, \$22.50

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Domestic and Imported Floor Coverings of standard weaves representative of the best mills of the country. Many designs and colorings that are exclusive to this House. Everything marked down in accord with our custom to lower prices in the Great August Sale. Wiltons, Axminsters, Velvets, Chenilles, Body Brussels and Tapestry Brussels. Summer Rugs, Klearflax, Wool-and-Fiber, Oval and Oblong Rush Rugs, Grass Olatha Rugs, Crex Rugs, Rush and Formosa Block Rugs, and Rag Rugs. Our own regular high-grade stocks at prices that will save many a dollar for those who buy Floor Coverings now.

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